

Message Text

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15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7025

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJECT: SPEECH BY PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ UPON ARRIVING AT THE
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

1. SUMMARY: IN AN EMOTIONALLY-CHARGED SPEECH, DELIVERED AT 5:40 P.M., SEPTEMBER 1, WHEN HE REACHED THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT THE HEAD OF A COLUMN OF LOYAL ARMORED/MECHANIZED TROOPS, PRESIDENT GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ LARA EXCORIATED "TREASONOUS, DISLOYAL, SELFISH" POLITICIANS WHO WERE OUT FOR THEIR OWN GAIN, AND PRAISED THE ECUADOREAN ARMED FORCES WHO HAD STOOD BY HIM DURING SUNDAY/MONDAY'S COUP ATTEMPT. ALLOWING FOR WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF EXHAUSTION, RODRIGUEZ LARA GAVE LITTLE HINT OF HIS THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE COURSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT BEYOND SAYING THAT THERE WERE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THE DAY'S EPISODE, AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN VERY MUCH TO HEART. END SUMMARY.

2. EVINCING SIGNS OF THE STRAIN OF THE PREVIOUS 24 HOURS, RODRIGUEZ WAS BOTH MOVED AND MOVING AS HE SPOKE TO THE NATION FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHICH HAD BEEN FREED FROM THE HANDS OF INSURGENTS JUST HOURS BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL IN THE CAPITAL AT THE HEAD OF LOYAL TROOPS. HE SPOKE OF THE PALACE AS "THIS HOME OF THE PEOPLE, FULL
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OF HISTORY, RICH IN THE MEMORY OF ALL ECUADOREANS;"

"THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN DESTROYED -- THEY HAVE DESTROYED EVEN THE BOOKS OF MY LIBRARY ... BOOKS I HAVE READ WHENEVER I HAD THE TIME, AND AFFAIRS OF STATE PERMITTED ME."

3. ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES, HE SPOKE CONTEMPTUOUSLY OF "THOSE SMALL MEN WHO CHALLENGED THE COURSE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT." " I THINK THE FORCE COMMANDERS, THE ARMED FORCES, THE MILITARY UNITS WHICH HAVE WIPED OUT THIS STAIN... AND DONE THEIR DUTY TO THEIR COUNTRY."

4. RODRIGUEZ RESERVED HIS CHOICEST EPITHETS FOR THE POLITICIANS, WHOM HE BLAMED FOR INSTIGATING THE UPRISING AND ATTEMPTING TO FOIL THE "LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS" OF THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE AND THE ARMED FORCES REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT. "WE HAVE SEEN, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE UNBRIDLED OPPOSITION OF A FEW POLITICIANS, THE USUAL POLITICIANS, THE UNSCRUPULOUS ONES, POLITICIANS WITHOUT A CONSCIENCE," "COMPANIONS OF YESTERDAY UPON WHOM THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE LAW WILL FALL EQUALLY SO THAT THEY CAN ANSWER TO THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE FOR THE IMMENSE HARM THEY HAVE CAUSED US." RODRIGUEZ EMPHASIZED AT ONE POINT THAT HE WAS NOT REFERRING TO ALL POLITICIANS, BUT ONLY TO THOSE WHO WERE "ALREADY SAVORING THEIR TRIUMPH ANNOUNCING ABROAD THAT THEY WOULD CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY" FOR THE COUP.

5. RODRIGUEZ ENDED WITH HEARTFELT THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAD SHELTERED HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN (WHO WERE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE PALACE DURING A MID-MORNING CEASE-FIRE), AND THE STATEMENT THAT TODAY HE HAD PUT IN "A FULL DAY'S WORK" ON BEHALF OF HIS COUNTRY. HE SAID THE ATTACKERS HAD BELIEVED THEY WERE "OUT TO DESTROY GENERAL RODRIGUEZ LARA; THEY DIDN'T CONQUER RODRIGUEZ LARA--THEY WERE THEMSELVES CONQUERED, BY THE ARMED FORCES, THE CIVILIANS, AND THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE."
BREWSTER

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